Serial No.: 09/954,773

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, as follows:

A METHOD OF DETERMINING SOYBEAN SUDDEN DEATH SYNDROME

~~RESISTANT~~ RESISTANCE IN A SOYBEAN PLANT ~~SOYBEANS, SOYBEAN CYST~~

~~NEMATODE RESISTANT SOYBEANS AND METHODS OF BREEDING AND~~

~~IDENTIFYING RESISTANT PLANTS~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, as follows:

Priority Application Information

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. patent application serial no. 09/007,119 filed January 14, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,300,541, which claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/035,335, filed January 14, 1997, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the Abstract with the following re-written Abstract, an additional clean copy of which is enclosed in a separate page:

~~The invention provides a method of introgressing soybean sudden death syndrome (SDS) or soybean cyst nematode (SCN) resistance into non-resistant soybean germplasm. Loci associated with SDS resistance or with SCN resistance in soybean lines known to be resistant to SDS or to SCN are used in marker-assisted selection during introgression of SDS or SCN resistance into elite germplasm. In addition, the method may be used to confirm selection of resistance in new soybean cultivars.~~

A method of determining the presence of soybean sudden death syndrome resistance in the soybean plant in a greenhouse setting, the method comprising the steps of: (a) inoculating soil with a low density inoculum of *Fusarium solani*; (b) planting a soybean plant in said inoculated soil; (c) growing said plant in said soil in a greenhouse; (d) isolating *Fusariuni solani*-infected tissue from said plant; (e) culturing said infected tissue for a period of time sufficient to allow for fungal colony forming unit

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growth; (f) scoring at least one of disease severity and infection severity in said plant using the number of said fungal colony forming units; and (g) correlating at least one of said disease severity and said infection severity to at least one of disease severity and infection severity data from genetic markers associated with soybean sudden death syndrome resistance to identify a correlation, wherein a statistically significant correlation indicates presence of soybean sudden death syndrome resistance in said soybean plant. Also provided is a method of characterizing resistance to soybean sudden death syndrome in a soybean plant, the method comprising the steps of: (a) isolating roots from a soybean plant infected by *Fusarium solani*; (b) culturing the root on a culture plate including a restrictive growth medium that provides for slow fungal growth and restricted bacterial growth; (c) determining root infection severity by statistically evaluating the number of *Fusarium solani* colony forming units on said culture plate; and (d) characterizing resistance to soybean sudden death syndrome in said soybean plant based on said determined root infection severity.

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